

Shrewsbury High School  
64 Holden Street  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545  
*Office of the Principal*



## Memorandum

To: Dr. Joseph Sawyer  
From: Todd Bazydlo  
Date: November 12, 2015  
Re: Proposed Trip to San Salvador

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Attached please find a request from Ms. Alex Wilson for approval of an eight-day trip to visit the Gerace Research Center (GRC) on the island of San Salvador during late June/early July 2016. The date has yet to be confirmed as it is subject to lodging availability and cost of airline tickets. The GRC is a facility open to students, teachers, and researchers who look to study the ecology of a tropical environment. As mentioned in the proposal from Ms. Wilson, the purpose of this trip is to give students who have an interest in environmental science, ecology, or biology a hands-on field experience.

The estimated cost of this trip is \$1,600-1,900 per student. The range price is contingent on the size of the group, with a minimum of 3 students to a maximum of 12 students. Additionally, SHS students will travel and partner with a group from Carver High School, who had the experience of conducting student field studies to the GRC. The trip will be offered for those students who will be enrolled in AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, Environmental Science and Biology classes. This trip will provide students with an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate their communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration skills as they conduct comparative field studies, laboratory work, attend lectures, and complete an outcome project.

This packet includes all of the information required by School Committee Policy #537.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

### Shrewsbury High School Mission Statement

The Shrewsbury High School community provides challenging, diverse learning opportunities; promotes creativity and independent thinking; and empowers students to become capable, caring, active contributors to the world in which they live.

# Overnight School Sponsored Field Trip Proposal

Alexandra Wilson – Trip Coordinator

## **1. Educational Purpose**

The Science Department of Shrewsbury High School is providing an exciting and unique opportunity for students to travel to San Salvador Island in the Bahamas. The purpose of our trip to the island will be to participate in scientific field research utilizing the island's rich marine and ecological resources for our study. It should be noted that San Salvador is not a tourist island and that we will not be participating in typical tourist activities such as shopping and tanning on the beach. We will be snorkeling, hiking, and spelunking. While on the island we will be staying at the Gerace Research Center, a center established specifically to provide the necessary facilities for students, teachers, and researchers to study in a tropical environment.

San Salvador and the GRC, with their cultural setting and geographic location, are not for everyone. Faculty and students will not live in a manner and style to which they have become accustomed at vacation resorts. San Salvador lies well off the coast of Florida, a distance that can be measured in cultural difference as well as miles. The language is English and the people are generally very receptive, but linguistic affinity and friendliness can easily be misinterpreted for cultural similarity. In fact, this island is inhabited by largely agrarian people who are very religious, and who have a value system and worldview quite unlike our own.

*Four objectives will guide our activities at the GRC:*

1. Students will investigate and describe relationships between ecological systems and human activities
2. Students will be able to describe similarities and differences between American and Bahamian cultures.
3. Students will be able to describe and identify protocols related to research methods and techniques.
4. Through field studies and activities, students will contribute to ongoing scientific investigations taking place on the island

## **2. Curriculum unit related to the trip**

Emphasis will be placed on comparative field studies and methods utilized in undergraduate level system ecology. Laboratory work, lectures, and an outcome project will be included. With the ever-increasing need for subject and issue integration common in mathematics and science curriculum, the course's approach will borrow from STS (Science, Technology, and Society) research to include instruction in strategies for environmental issue analyses in light of global patterns.

Utilization of a multi-national marine field station by the class in a clear water environment will:

- facilitate the visual observations of and comparison to species and marine processes not easily observable in normal conditions in the sediment laden waters off the eastern Atlantic coast of the United States

- provide a diverse site for the comparison of maritime terrestrial systems of a tropical environment vs. the temperate environment that is the more familiar system to these students
- allow for the observation and study of coastal, geologic, and hydro chemical processes not common to the northeastern Atlantic coast of the United States
- aid in the comparison of speciation, behavioral habits, and survival techniques between tropical and temperate flora and fauna
- afford the opportunity to become familiar with a different country and its customs while providing contact with other students and researchers also in residence at the field station during this time period

The subjects to be taught from an *introductory* standpoint include, but are not restricted to:

- I. Morphology, ecology, and taxonomic survey of fish indigenous to reef systems
- II. Morphology, ecology, and taxonomic survey of invertebrates indigenous to reef systems
- III. Morphology, ecology, and taxonomic survey of coral colonies indigenous to reef systems
- IV. Morphology, ecology, and taxonomic survey of marine and terrestrial plants indigenous to reef systems and tropical islands
- V. Morphology, ecology, and taxonomic survey of birds in this area as either residents or neotropical migrants.
- VI. A cultural history of the islands of the Bahamas

### **3. Proposed classroom preparation and follow up**

Each student will be expected to choose an area of focus at the beginning of the trip. Though all students are to participate in all activities, time will be allowed for individual specialization. In turn, the student will present a 5-10 minute lecture to the class on the last day at the station demonstrating knowledge gained in that area and sharing that knowledge with their peers. Additional prerequisites for attendance will include a swimming assessment. American Red Cross first aid training will be encouraged. All students must be in good physical condition and have no record of disciplinary action.

Though all students will participate in all activities, each student will select a specific exploration or investigation to observe, study, and learn about for the duration of the time on the island. For instance – reef ecology, reef fish adaptations, cave ecology, human impacts on

reefs, etc. On the last day each student will share with the group a 5-10 minute presentation summarizing their conclusions and what they learned regarding their area of concentration.

#### **4. Destination in Detail**

##### **Island History**

San Salvador Island is one of the outermost of a chain of some 700 islands sprinkled throughout more than 5,000 square miles of the most beautiful waters of the world. Although San Salvador is similar to the other islands of this archipelago, it is unique for its history, ecology, inland lakes, and potential for future development.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World at San Salvador. At that time the Lucayans, an Indian population who lived off fishing and agriculture, populated the island. After befriendng these people, the admiral explored the island, going north from Long Bay where his fleet was anchored and rowing some twenty miles in search of an entrance through the barrier reef. One such boat canal was found with seven feet of water leading to a deep harbor that Columbus reported, "would hold all the ships of Christendom." It is now known as Grahams Harbor.

The harbor remains as it was except for the Gerace Research Centre (GRC), which is located on the edge of a beach composed of calcareous sands.

Much of the interior of San Salvador is made up of lakes which were utilized in days past for transportation. This unique inner island passage promoted the development of several communities on the perimeter of these interconnected lakes. After trampling in the dense bush which covers the island, one can appreciate why this method of transport was used.

Today the island's paved perimeter road traverses through several small settlements which reflect the unspoiled Bahamian natural charm. The largest community, Cockburn Town, is the center of all activities on the island, having the Commissioner's office, Post Office, telecommunication station, and electricity generators

##### **The Gerace Research Centre**

The GRC, as part of the College of the Bahamas, has a continuing agreement with the Bahamas government to undertake a wide range of environmental research projects in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. San Salvador offers a natural field laboratory for such studies.

##### **Faculty Housing**

Facilities at the GRC were built over forty years ago by the United States Sea Bees. Faculty rooms are all on the ground floor and designed to house two or more people. Each room has a sink and mirror, 2 beds or more, a dresser and desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. However, in some cases, two adjoining rooms share a toilet and shower. Each room has a ceiling fan, and a number of the rooms can be air-conditioned with window units for an additional fee.

Undergraduate students are housed in dormitories located in the barracks which housed the Navy personnel during their stay on the island. They consist of a number of separate rooms housing a maximum of five students each, in single beds and sharing a common bathroom. Men's and women's dorms are separate.

While these barracks were one of the finest built for military, they in no way compare with dormitories on a college campus. For a field station, however, living conditions are more than adequate for persons who are disciplined in keeping their quarters neat and who can function comfortably with minor inconveniences.

Each student room has at least one dresser and a desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. In one case two rooms (housing two students each) share one bathroom. The GRC furnishes bed linens and towels for each room, but does not provide daily laundry service. Each participant must launder his/her own towels and bed linens. Maids clean each room and lavatory daily.

### **Laboratory Facilities**

The GRC has available 10 modest but adequate laboratory classrooms, most of which are air-conditioned. A limited number of compound and dissecting microscopes, as well as assorted laboratory glassware, are available for student and faculty use. There are two large air-conditioned lecture rooms with overhead and slide projectors and VCRs, a wet lab containing aquariums with circulating sea water, a library, a computer lab, and a specimen repository. Each faculty member submits, prior to the trip, a list of those items of equipment and library references required to complete his/her research or individual course. In this way our laboratory will have equipment tailored to the specific research being undertaken.

### **Dining Facilities**

The GRC has complete dining facilities for ninety people. The bulk of the food utilized on campus is shipped from Nassau by marine transport.

Fresh vegetables and fruits can be limited since the GRC is dependent not only on availability of supplies from Nassau but also on the supply boat being able to sail from Nassau to deliver produce. With the aforementioned problems in logistics, the menu is sometimes limited, however, the kitchen staff will provide balanced meals and normally serves a vegetarian alternative. Special accommodations are manageable but must be discussed with the trip coordinator before the trip.

### **Recreation and Entertainment**

Sports equipment is provided for basketball and volleyball. Students should bring their own small games, such as cards, chess, etc. Paperback literature is available in the library for free time reading. Sodas, candy, snacks, postcards, and stamps are available for purchase at the Snack Bar located on campus. T-shirts are available for sale in the library.

### **Insects**

Like most tropical places, San Salvador has insects. The island has palmetto bugs, flies, and roaches which are not usually considered a nuisance to our participants. However, of the several hundred species of mosquitoes, San Salvador can boast of twelve. During the rainy season, the nuisance level builds to intolerable levels. However, relief can be obtained in screened quarters, especially during the twilight hours. Throughout the year most participants should not experience mosquito bites during the heat of the day in unshaded cleared areas.

The biggest offender of the insect world on San Salvador is the "no-see-um." They are also known as the sand fly, punky, gnat, or nit. They can get through standard mosquito mesh and can sometimes crawl under covers to deliver a painful bite. Some people are more tormented by these insects than others. Two people sleeping next to each other may find one bothered by bites while the other experiences no discomfort at all. After the first two weeks on the island people either get used to the nuisance or develop immunity to bites. Insect sprays are useful in the control of these tropical nuisances, and anti-itch creams and aloe bring relief from bite irritation.

## **4. Proposed dates and times of departure and return**

Late June 2016 to early July 2016\*

\*Dates of the trip are tentative and subject to change based on airline ticket prices and lodging availability. Although Feb. or April break would be ideal from our HS perspective, these time periods are typically very expensive as we are competing with other colleges and airline tickets are generally more expensive and more crowded.

## **5. Number of students participating**

Students of Shrewsbury High School currently in 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade who have an interest in environmental science, ecology, or biology. Preferential placement will be given to those who will be enrolled in AP Environmental Science or AP Biology, followed by A-level Environmental Science, and lastly, Biology classes. There will be a maximum of 10 students enrolled in this field study and a minimum of 3 students due to accommodations and transportation availability on the island.

## **6. Number and names of adult supervisors and ratio**

There will be at least 1 adult for every 6 students from Shrewsbury High School. This trip will be run in conjunction with a group from Carver High School, MA, which will provide a minimum of 2 additional chaperones that will oversee the Carver group, but will work with Shrewsbury chaperones to oversee and organize all student activities on the island.

### Chaperones:

Alexandra Wilson (Trip Coordinator)  
Second Chaperone – TBD

## **7. Detailed itinerary**

7:30AM	Breakfast
9:00AM - 11:45AM	Field work - land and/or water based; vehicle needed
12:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM	Field work - land and/or water based; vehicle needed
5:00PM	Return and clean-up
5:30PM	Dinner
7:00 - 10:00PM	Lecture, Lab, Independent Research, Synthesis (lab/lecture)

The specific sites visited each day are weather and/or tide dependant, but will be chosen from the following list:

Cockburn Town, Columbus Monument, Dump Reef, East Beach, Fernandez Bay, Fortune Hill, French Bay and observation tower, Government Dock, Grotto Beach, Inland Lakes, Light

House, Light House Cave, Lindsey, Long Bay, North Point, Pigeon Creek, Rocky Point/Gerace Reef, Sand Dollar Bay, United Estates, White Cay, Green Cay, Fossil Reef

## **8. Sample form for parents – trip in detail**

Please see attached parent information sheet.

## **9. Costs of trip for students**

**\$1600.00 – \$1900.00 per student.**

The actual cost is dependent on several factors that are yet to be determined, including cost of airfare and the number of students attending. The more students that participate in the trip the lower the final cost will be to each student. This fee will include round trip airfare, overnight hotel in Miami, and room and board on the island for 8 days and seven nights (all meals included).

## **10. Sources of funding**

Students will have the opportunity to work in conjunction with the athletics department to earn funds through the break down and set up of USA gymnastics meets twice throughout the year. This can serve as a fundraiser to help curb the cost of the trip for all participating students

Students are expected to provide the remainder of their own funds for this trip and submit payments in a timely manner.



## Memorandum

To: Dr. Joseph Sawyer  
From: Todd Bazydlo  
Date: November 12, 2015  
Re: Trip proposal for Student Television Network Convention

Attached is a request from Ms. Maggie Korab for approval of a five-day trip to Atlanta, GA to attend the Student Television Network convention from Wednesday, March 9 to Sunday, March 13, 2016. The Student Television Network Convention will allow SHS students an opportunity to experience and explore the digital video production convention with their peers from across the United States.

The estimated cost of this trip is \$1,200 per student. This trip will provide an outstanding opportunity for students to participate in a variety of training sessions, compete in contests, and visit equipment booths. Training sessions and contests at the convention will provide an occasion for students to learn more about camera composition, editing techniques, news reporting, movie making, and digital storytelling. Professionals will judge and comment on contest entries. Students will apply knowledge learned at this convention to their work in our television studio.

The Student Television Network convention addresses the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students, which are:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration
- Research and Information Fluency
- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making

This packet includes all of the information required by School Committee Policy #537.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Shrewsbury High School Educational Television Studio students

Field Trip Proposal: 3/9/16-3/13/16

Students of the Educational Television Studio at Shrewsbury High School are considering attending the Student Television Network Convention in Atlanta, GA in March 2016. The Student Television Network is an organization that includes high school affiliates all over the United States. This trip will allow students the opportunity to experience and explore opportunities in digital video production. All participants at this conference are high school video production students and high school video production educators. The convention includes multiple training sessions in video production, a myriad of contests such as short film fiction, short film documentary, news reporting, sports editing, public service announcements, spot feature story, anchor team, news writing, movie trailer, and sports highlights.

### 1. Educational or Extra-Curricular purpose of the trip



The purpose of this trip is for students to explore and expand on their knowledge in digital video storytelling. Students will participate in a variety of training sessions, compete in contests, and visit equipment booths. Students will complete and work with students who are involved in video production all over the United States. Professionals will judge and comment on contest entries.

## **2. Curriculum unit or units related to the trip**

The following curriculum units relate to the STN convention trip:

- Camera Composition
- Editing (Skill Builders)
- News Reporting
- Movie Shorts
- Studio Production

Training sessions and contests at the convention provide opportunities for students to learn more about camera composition, editing techniques, news reporting, movie making, and digital storytelling. Students will apply the knowledge learned to their work in the television studio.

The Student Television Network convention addresses the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students (<http://www.iste.org/standards/ISTE-standards/standards-for-students>):

- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration
- Research and Information Fluency
- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making

## **3. Proposed classroom preparation for the trip and proposed classroom follow-up after the trip**

The curriculum for Advanced Television classes and Television 2 production courses will prepare students for this event.

In addition, students will prepare for this event by:

- Reviewing the 2015 STN Convention video
- Reading all guidelines from STN pertaining to contest and convention participation
- Watching “winning” videos from the 2015 Convention video
- Identifying and practicing new techniques as noted in the “winning” videos

After the trip students will create a video about their trip and include their personal reflections on what they learned. They will use the ISTE Standards for students to guide their thinking and responses.

**4. Destination in detail**

Location of Convention:

Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA

265 Peachtree Center Avenue, GA 30303

Students will be staying at the hotel during the entire trip.

The hotel rate is provided by the Student Television Network. They have reserved a block of rooms for the convention.

Dates: Thursday, March 10 – Sunday, March 13, 2016

It is expected that students will fly to Atlanta on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 in order to participate in the first contest on March 10 at 7:30 AM

**5. Proposed dates and exact times of departure and return, including departure point and destination point**

The dates of the trip are Wednesday, March 9 – Sunday, March 13, 2016.

Students will depart from Shrewsbury High School Wednesday morning/afternoon and travel via motor coach/limousine service to the airport where they will fly to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Students will be transported to the Atlanta Marriott Marquis by motorcoach/shuttle. Students will return to Shrewsbury High School on Sunday, March 13, 2016 afternoon/early evening depending on flight schedules.

**6. Number of students participating**

The estimated number of Shrewsbury students attending is 16. Students in Advanced Television production will be offered the opportunity to attend the conference first. Additional available spots will be offered to students in TV 2.

**7. Number and names of adult supervisors**

There will be at least one chaperone per 8 students accompanying us on this trip. The educational television studio director (Maggie Korab) will be attending as well as an administrator and the tv studio technician (Greg Marceau).

**8. Itinerary**

A copy of the proposed itinerary is enclosed.

**9. Sample Form given to parents**

Each parent will receive a proposed itinerary and a payment plan. Included will be a permission slip, a medical release, and a list of behaviors that is expected on the trip. All permissions will be on file with the school.

**10. Costs per student**

The projected cost of the trip is \$1,200.00. This includes flight, hotel, registration, hotel, food, and taxes. Rates may fluctuate with changes in number of students, flight costs, and possible tour on Wednesday.

11. **Sources of funding** Students will have the opportunity to work in conjunction with the athletics department to earn funds through the break down and set up of USA gymnastics meets twice throughout the year. This can serve as a fundraiser to help curb the cost of the trip for all participating students.

Students and parents are responsible for the cost of the trip.

12. **Sponsors, prizes, stipends**

There are no prizes, stipends, tips, gifts, or any other gratuities association with acquisition of travel and/or accommodations.

There is price reduction for the hotel rooms. A block of rooms is reserved for those attending the STN Convention.

13. **Informational Meeting**

An informational meeting for all television production students will be held to explain the trip. In addition the educational television studio director will hold a meeting 3-4 weeks prior to the trip to discuss any changes in the itinerary and to reinforce the expected behavior for the trip.

14. **Release Forms**

Each parent will receive a proposed itinerary and a payment plan. Included will be a permission slip, a medical release, and a list of behaviors that is expected on the trip. Each parent will receive a release form that parents must sign releasing the school and employees from liability arising from the trip. All permissions will be on file with the school.

15. **Provisions for members to participate**

All students will be encouraged to participate in this conference. We are currently looking into additional ways to fund this trip so that it is financially possible for students who are interested in attending this conference.

## Addendum

### Itinerary

Wednesday, March 9  
Arrive Late Afternoon  
Dinner on your own

\* Thursday, March 10, 2016  
7:30 AM Crazy 8's contest – this is an all day event  
Various training sessions  
8 PM Opening Ceremony

\* Friday, March 11th, 2016  
8:00AM-6:00PM On-Site contests  
8:00AM-5:00PM Exhibit Booths Open  
8:00AM-6:00PM Professional Sessions  
8:00PM Broadcast Excellence/Film Excellence/US ED TV Awards

\* Saturday, March 12th, 2016

8:00AM-6:00PM

On-Site contests 8:00AM-5:00PM

Exhibit Booths Open 8:00AM-6:00PM Professional Sessions

8:00PM-10:00PM STN Party

Sunday, March 13th, 2016

10:00AM Closing Ceremony and Awards

\* There are numerous contests for students at this conference during each day. In addition students have the opportunity to participate in training sessions each day.

Flight approximately \$350.00 per person not including baggage from TF Green airport.

Transportation to and from the airport – unknown.

For more information:

<https://www.studenttelevision.com/convention.htm>